important part in their life, and it *is* perhaps worthy of note that birds with highly-variegated plumage are provided only with the uropygial gland, while mammals with usually dull and similar coloration have a great variety of skin glands. Scent is no doubt a sense of higher importance in mammals than in birds. The subject is one which will bear further study.

Mails and Claws.—Except for the Cetacea (where rudiments have been found in the foetus), the extremities of the fingers and of the toes of mammals are covered by, or encased in, horny epidermic plates, known as nails, claws, and hoofs.

The variety in the shape and development of these corneous sheaths to the digits is highly characteristic of mammals as opposed to lower Vertebrates. If we take extreme cases, such as the nail of the thumb in Man, the hoof of a Horse, and the claw of a Cat, it is easy to distinguish the three kinds of phalangeal horny coverings. But the differences become extinguished as we pass from these to related types. The nail of the little finger in Man approaches the claw-like form; and the hoofs of the Lama arc almost claws in the sharpness of their extremities. On the whole it may be said that claws and hoofs embrace the bono which they cover, while nails lie only upon its dorsal surface. The form, of the distal phalanx which bears the nail shows, however, two kinds of modification which do not support such a classification. When those phalanges are clad with hoofs or covered by a nail they end in a rounded and flattened termination. On the other hand, when they bear a claw they are themselves sharpened at the extremity and often grooved above.

The Marsupium.—It rnay appear to be unnecessary at this juncture to speak of the marsupial pouch, which is so usually believed to be a characteristic of the group Marsupialia. Hudiments of this structure have, however,, been recently discovered in the higher mammals, and, as Br. Klaatsch [1] has remarked, all researches into the " history of the mammals culminate in the question whether the placental mammals pass through a marsupial stage or not." We cannot, therefore, look

upon the marsupial pouch as a matter affecting only the Marsupials, though it is true that this organ is at pre$e;nt functional only in them and in the Monotreniata.

[1] **"Uber Marsirpialrudlmeate bei**